

# **The Fourth Sunday of Easter Sunday, April 30, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.**



## **Welcome!**

### **To our guests and visitors:**

We are glad that you are here with us today!

If you have no church home, why don't you consider joining us? Please speak to Pastor Parrish after the service and enjoy a special gift for visiting with us today!

## **Come, People of the Risen King**

Come, people of the risen King, who delight to bring Him praise;  
Come all, and tune your hearts to sing to the Morning Star of grace.  
From the shifting shadows of the earth, we will lift our eyes to Him,  
Where steady arms of mercy reach to gather children in.

Rejoice, rejoice! Let ev-'ry tongue rejoice!  
One heart, one voice; O church of Christ, rejoice!

Come, those whose joy is Morning Sun, and those weeping through the night;  
Come, those who tell of battles won, and those struggling in the fight.  
For His perfect love will never change, and His mercies never cease,  
But follow us through all our days with the certain hope of peace.

Rejoice, rejoice! Let ev-'ry tongue rejoice!  
One heart, one voice; O church of Christ, rejoice!

Come, young and old from ev-'ry land, men and women of the faith;  
Come, those with full or empty hands, find the riches of His grace.  
Over all the world His people sing, shore to shore we hear them call  
The truth that cries through ev-'ry age: "Our God is all in all!"

Rejoice, rejoice! Let ev-'ry tongue rejoice!  
One heart, one voice; O church of Christ, rejoice!

Rejoice, rejoice! Let ev-'ry tongue rejoice!  
One heart, one voice; O church of Christ, rejoice!

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## **Invocation**

Pastor            In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**People**           **Amen.**

Pastor:           Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**People:**        **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: The Lord is our Good Shepherd;  
People: **He leads us and restores our souls.**

Pastor: He walks beside us through the darkness  
People: **and never abandons us, even in death.**

Pastor: He goes before us and prepares a table for us,  
People: **and we will dwell in His house forever.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Though our Lord goes before us, beside us, and behind us, we still find a way to run away from His good pasture. We devote ourselves to all sorts of destruction. Still, our Good Shepherd seeks us out and brings us back to safety. He invites us to confess our sins before His heavenly Father.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,  
People: **we have strayed from You. We have wounded You with our sin. We have wounded others with our sin. We have wounded ourselves with our sin. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us back to Your good pasture, on account of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Amen.**

Pastor: Though we have strayed, Jesus always keeps searching for us. Though we have been lost in our priorities, Jesus is always and ever devoted to us. We see this most clearly as almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die and rise for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen. We are forgiven. Our souls are restored in Christ.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.  
Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our

Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:**           **Amen.**

## **First Reading**

**Acts 2:42-47**

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

<sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Pastor:           This is the Word of the Lord  
**People**           **Thank be to God**

## **The Epistle**

**1 Peter 2:19-25**

<sup>19</sup> For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. <sup>20</sup> But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. <sup>21</sup> To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup> "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." <sup>23</sup> When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."

<sup>25</sup> For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Pastor:           This is the Word of the Lord  
**People**           **Thank be to God**

## **Holy Gospel**

## **John 10:1-10**

“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.

<sup>5</sup> But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” <sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them.

<sup>9</sup> I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

## **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.**

## **Like A Shepherd**

Like a shepherd he feeds his flock and gathers the lambs in his arms,  
Holding them carefully close to his heart, leading them home.

Say to the cities of Judah: Prepare the way of the Lord.  
Go to the mountaintop, lift your voice: Jerusalem, here is your God.

Like a shepherd he feeds his flock and gathers the lambs in his arms,  
Holding them carefully close to his heart, leading them home.

I myself will shepherd them, for others have led them astray.  
The lost I will rescue and heal their wounds and pasture them, giving them rest.

Like a shepherd he feeds his flock and gathers the lambs in his arms,  
Holding them carefully close to his heart, leading them home.

Come unto me if you are heavily burdened,  
And take my yoke upon your shoulders - I will give you rest.

Like a shepherd he feeds his flock and gathers the lambs in his arms,  
Holding them carefully close to his heart, leading them home.

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## **Sermon Rev. John Vaughn "Living Forever" John 10:1-10**

### **The Offering**

### **Prayer of Blessing**

**P** You have called us and empowered us for a mission to the whole world. You have gathered us as a church, washed us in grace, united us in faith and given us the Holy Spirit. We are joined to believers around the globe who offer our lives and our resources to be used in the world of Your Kingdom on earth.

**C** Amen.

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Pastor:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise  
**People:** **within Thy house forever.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, we have filled our lives with so much busyness and chaos. Help us to remove those things from our lives which are not beneficial, so that we may lead lives that are devoted to Your Word and Sacraments, to prayer and fellowship. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

**People: within Thy house forever.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for all pastors, missionaries, musicians, educators, and all who serve within Your one holy Christian and apostolic Church. Embolden them to teach Your Word that restores the souls of Your people. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

**People: within Thy house forever.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, You have borne our griefs and shared in our sorrows. Bring Your comfort to all those who are suffering in grief. Point them to the hope of the resurrection to eternal life with Jesus, where You will prepare a table before us, and we shall dwell in Your house forever. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

**People: within Thy house forever.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, we ask Your blessing upon all who labor in the agriculture industry, for farmers, ranchers, shepherds, and all who tend animals and grow food. Give them seasonable weather and joy in their labors. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

**People: within Thy house forever.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, we pray that You would open a door for Your Word that we might proclaim Your excellencies to those who have not yet believed in Your name, that they might be sheep of Your pasture and sing Your praises with us. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

**People: within Thy house forever.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially* . . .]. Have mercy upon them, and restore them to health according to Your wisdom. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

**People: within Thy house forever.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, we commend all of these people and situations into  
Your hands, for You have promised to hear our prayers and tend us as our  
Good Shepherd. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise  
People: **within Thy house forever. Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen**

## **The Invitation**

P: This morning we have another opportunity to encounter God's real, tangible grace for us in this meal; that in, with, and under these simple elements of bread and wine are the true body and blood of Jesus Christ given to us for the forgiveness of sins. And so, we become what we eat. We are the body of Christ to be sent out into the world. So it's necessary and good that we partake of this meal; that we experience God's love for us in this way, that we share this family meal together. So if this is your confession I would invite you to join me as we confess together our faith.

**C: I understand and admit that I have sinned against God, that I recognize my sin and humbly ask God to forgive me. I believe that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior and that He is my only hope against sin, death, and the devil. I believe that the risen Christ is really present in the Sacrament, and under the form of the bread and wine I receive this true body and blood for the forgiveness of my sin and the strengthening of my faith and life to the Lord and His Church by faithfully worshipping Him, cheerfully giving my time and resources, and joyfully sharing the Good News of Jesus with others.**

## **The Words of Institution**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ☐ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."



In the same way also, He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My ☐ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

## **Distribution**

### **Speak O Lord**

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to receive the food of Your holy word.  
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,  
That the light of Christ might be seen today  
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.  
Speak, O lord, and fulfill in us all Your purposes, for Your glory.

Teach us Lord full obedience, holy reverence, true humility.  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of Your purity.  
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see  
Your majestic love and authority.  
Words of pow’r that can never fail; Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time, that will echo down through eternity.  
And by grace we’ll stand on Your promises;  
And by faith we’ll walk as You walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built and the earth is filled with Your glory.

*“Speak O Lord”, Words and Music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend CCLI# 2960087*

## **Communion Dismissal**

**P:** Now may this true body and blood, strengthen and preserve you in the one  
true faith until life everlasting.  
Go in His peace.  
**C:** **Amen**

## **Post-Communion Thanksgiving**

**P** We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this  
salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through

the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## **Benediction**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C Amen.**

## **Lord, Reign In Me**

Over all the earth You reign on high. Every mountain stream every sunset sky.  
But my one request Lord my only aim Is that You'd reign in me again.

Lord reign in me. Reign in Your pow'r. Over all my dreams in my darkest hour.  
You are the Lord of all I am, So won't You reign in me again.

Over every thought over every word May my life reflect the beauty of my Lord.  
'Cause You mean more to me than any earthly thing, So won't you reign in me again.

Lord reign in me. Reign in Your pow'r. Over all my dreams in my darkest hour.  
You are the Lord of all I am, So won't You reign in me again.

Lord reign in me. Reign in Your pow'r. Over all my dreams in my darkest hour.  
You are the Lord of all I am, So won't You reign in me again.

Lord reign in me. Reign in Your pow'r. Over all my dreams in my darkest hour.  
You are the Lord of all I am, So won't You reign in me again.  
Won't You reign in me again? Won't You reign in me again?

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